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*Tammie B. McFarland*  
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9.30.03  
Date of Signature

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
Lail et al. )  
Serial No.: 10/661,204 ) Art Unit: Unknown  
Filed: September 12, 2003 ) Examiner: Unknown  
Title: OPTICAL TUBE ASSEMBLY HAVING A  
DRY INSERT AND METHODS OF MAKING  
THE SAME

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the filing date of the application, but, to the best of Applicants' knowledge, before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.

Copies of the listed documents are attached.

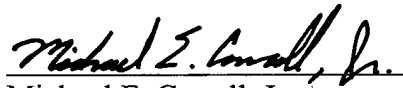
Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claims in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

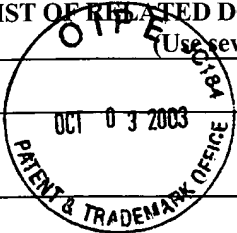
If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-2167. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

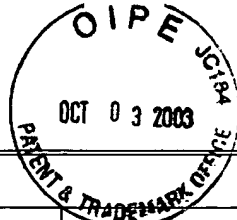
Respectfully submitted,



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Date: September 29, 2003

| <b>FORM PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce</b><br><b>Patent and Trademark Office</b>   |    |                 |          | <b>Attorney Docket Number:</b><br><b>C0025A</b> |       | <b>Serial Number:</b><br><b>10/661,204</b> |                            |
|--|----|-----------------|----------|---|-------|--|----------------------------|
| <b>LIST OF RELATED DOCUMENTS CITED BY APPLICANT</b><br>(Use several sheets if necessary) |    |                 |          | <b>Applicant:</b> Lail et al.                   |       |  |                            |
|         |    |                 |          | <b>Filing Date:</b> September 12, 2003          |       | <b>Group:</b><br>Unknown                   |                            |
| <b>U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>  |    |                 |          |   |       |  |                            |
| Examiner Initial   |    | Document Number | Date     | Name  | Class | Subclass                                   | Filing Date if Appropriate |
|  | AA | 6,504,979B1     | 1/7/03   | Norris et al.                                   | 385   | 109  | 9/6/01                     |
|  | AB | 6,278,826B1     | 8/21/01  | Sheu  | 385   | 109  | 9/15/99                    |
|  | AC | 6,229,944B1     | 5/8/01   | Yokokawa et al.                                 | 385   | 114  | 6/23/99                    |
|  | AD | 6,226,431B1     | 5/1/01   | Brown et al.                                    | 385   | 114  | 6/29/99                    |
|  | AE | 6,091,871       | 7/18/00  | Elisson et al.                                  | 385   | 113  | 12/9/97                    |
|  | AF | 5,763,067       | 6/9/98   | Bruggemann et al.                               | 428   | 317.9                                      | 11/22/96                   |
|  | AG | 5,698,615       | 12/16/97 | Polle   | 523   | 173  | 5/9/96                     |
|  | AH | 5,621,842       | 4/15/97  | Keller  | 385   | 114  | 9/22/95                    |
|  | AI | 5,621,841       | 4/15/97  | Field   | 385   | 113  | 9/20/95                    |
|  | AJ | 5,509,097       | 4/16/96  | Tondi-Resta et al.                              | 385   | 113  | 4/7/94                     |
|  | AK | 5,422,973       | 6/6/95   | Ferguson et al.                                 | 385   | 112  | 3/28/94                    |
|  | AL | 5,243,675       | 9/7/93   | Kathiresan et al.                               | 385   | 109  | 4/16/92                    |
|  | AM | 5,224,190       | 6/29/93  | Chu et al.                                      | 385   | 107  | 3/31/92                    |
|  | AN | 5,133,034       | 7/21/92  | Arroyo et al.                                   | 385   | 107  | 8/20/91                    |
|  | AO | 5,016,952       | 5/21/91  | Arroyo et al.                                   | 350   | 96.20                                      | 12/22/89                   |
|  | AP | 4,913,517       | 4/3/90   | Arroyo et al.                                   | 350   | 96.23                                      | 7/11/88                    |
|  | AQ | 4,909,592       | 3/20/90  | Arroyo et al.                                   | 350   | 96.23                                      | 9/29/88                    |
|  | AR | 4,818,060       | 4/4/89   | Arroyo  | 350   | 96.23                                      | 3/31/87                    |
|  | AS | 4,725,629       | 2/16/88  | Garvey et al.                                   | 521   | 137  | 7/18/86                    |
|  | AT | 4,725,628       | 2/16/88  | Garvey et al.                                   | 521   | 137  | 7/18/86                    |
|  | AU | 4,707,569       | 11/17/87 | Yoshimura et al.                                | 174   | 116  | 5/23/86                    |



## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

|  |    | Document Number | Date     | Country | Class | Subclass | Translation Yes   No |
|--|----|-----------------|----------|---------|-------|----------|----------------------|
|  | AV | 10129772A1      | 1/23/03  | Germany | G02B  | 6/44     | Yes                  |
|  | AW | 2002-236241     | 8/23/02  | Japan   | G02B  | 6/44     | No                   |
|  | AX | 2001-343566     | 12/14/01 | Japan   | G02B  | 6/44     | No                   |
|  | AY | 2001-343565     | 12/14/01 | Japan   | G02B  | 6/44     | No                   |
|  | AZ | 11-337783       | 12/10/99 | Japan   | G02B  | 6/44     | No                   |
|  | BA | 11-271581       | 10/8/99  | Japan   | G02B  | 6/44     | No                   |
|  | BB | 9-152535        | 6/10/97  | Japan   | G02B  | 6/44     | No                   |
|  | BC | 0577233A1       | 1/5/94   | Europe  | H01B  | 7/28     | No                   |
|  | BD | 61-023104       | 1/31/86  | Japan   | G02B  | 6/44     | No                   |

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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|  | BF | United States Patent Application Publication No. US2003/0044137A1 dated March 6, 2003  |
|  | BG | Norris, R. H.; Weimann, P.A., "Dry Central Tube Ribbon Cables for the Outside Plant Environment", Proc. Of the 51 <sup>st</sup> Intern. Wire & Cable Symposium, p. 202-210 (2002).             |
|  | BH | Van Vickle, P., et al., "Innovative Dry Buffer Tube Design for Central Tube Ribbon Cable", Proc. Of the 2001 National Fiber Optics Engineers Conference, p. 154-161 (2001)                     |
|  | BI | Taylor, C., et al., "Effect of Water Blocking Materials On Moisture Diffusion in Prototype Cable Structures", Proc. of the 50 <sup>th</sup> Intern. Wire & Cable Symposium, p. 518-525 (2001). |
|  | BJ | Dixon, L., et al., "Crush and Bending Resistance in Next Generation Cable Designs", Proc. Of the 50 <sup>th</sup> Intern. Wire & Cable Symposium, p. 422-431 (2001).                           |
|  | BK | Wagman, R., et al., "BOTDR Analysis of Cable Tensile Testing", Proc. Of the 48 <sup>th</sup> Intern. Wire & Cable Symposium, p. 658-664 (1999)   |
|  | BL | Beasley, B., "Look, Mom! No Gel!" Outside Plant Magazine. December 2002. p. 16-18  |
|  | BM | Geca-Tapes, Non-Woven Wrapping-Tapes Catalog "Foam Tapes", April 1996  |
|  | BN | Geca-Tapes, Waterblocking Tapes Catalog – "Waterblocking Foam Tapes", April 1996   |
|  | BO | Dow Plastics, "Resin For Pipe Extrusion and Pipe Fittings", April 7, 2003.   |

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED